

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this amendment, Applicant has made changes to several of the original claims including independent claim 1. Additionally, new claims 14 through 20 have been added.

Claim 3 has been rejected as being indefinite. Applicant has now revised claim 3 to remove the issue raised in the rejection. It is Applicant's position that all claims as now presented are clear and definite and fully conform with the requirements of the statute. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful reading of the claims and for the helpful comment.

Claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pochmuller (U.S. 2002/0113415). Applicant notes that the publication date of Pochmuller (August 22, 2002) is just some days prior to Applicant's priority date (September 25, 2002). However, as the date is earlier, the reference now appears to be a 102(a) reference. Further, it appears that there is no 102(e) date for this publication, given that the PCT application appears to have been published in German.

Pochmuller discloses a device and method for a vehicle wherein a vehicle has a holding fixture 4 attached to it wherein the holding fixture has a field of view shown between dashed lines 6 (see Figure 2). This field of view includes the bumper 5 of the vehicle (includes a view of the bumper). In this regard, paragraph 0010 and 0029 provide suggestions and teachings with regard to viewing the bumper region. There is no suggestion of integrating a camera or a carrier unit into a bumper. As noted in paragraph 0029 the bumper is used (being in the field

of view) as an aid for orientation. Specifically, the bumper is in the view of the camera with the camera being mounted above, viewing the bumper. The reference provides the teaching or suggestion of providing the holding fixture attached to the vehicle so as to disappear into the body shell of the vehicle. This teaching must be taken in context, wherein the position is such that the bumper is in the field of view (the position is spaced from the bumper).

The Pochmuller reference fails to teach the combination of features claimed including a display device, one or more cameras and a carrier unit with the carrier unit pivotally moving from an operating position into a retracted position or from the retracted position into the operating position, providing the one or more camera units with side views (views of regions adjacent to each of the left and right sides of the vehicle). Pochmuller discloses the holding fixture as being on or in the body shell. This holding fixture is said to disappear into the body shell of the vehicle (paragraph 0037). The camera 17 can be drawn out of the body shell. Accordingly, Pochmuller discloses drawing the camera out of the body shell and attaching this holding fixture so as to disappear in the body shell in retracted state. This does not provide a teaching or suggestion of the pivoting features as claimed.

The invention as claimed presents a combination of features which are neither taught nor suggested by Pochmuller. These features allow for a pivoting movement of a carrier unit between a position wherein the cameras are within the front bumper to a position in which the cameras have fields of view to each side of the vehicle. The pivoting and disposition of the camera units in the bumper or above the bumper is not suggested and not taught by Pochmuller. Claims 1 and 19 highlight the combination. New claim 14 highlights the

combination with carrier unit with the carrier unit rotating about an axis between an operating position and a retracted position with the camera associated with the carrier unit being within the front bumper in the retracted position of the carrier unit and with the camera being above the front bumper with the carrier unit in the operating position. The carrier unit pivots from the operating position into the retracted position. This association of the carrier unit and cameras with the front bumper is neither taught nor suggested by Pockmuller. Accordingly, favorable consideration of claim 1 and the new claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 11 have been rejected as being obvious based on Pockmuller in view of Yamamoto.

As noted above, Pockmuller fails to teach and fails to suggest particular features of the invention. These features provide particular advantages with Pockmuller failing to recognize the problems which are addressed by the application and failing to recognize the advantages obtained by the features claimed.

Yamamoto discloses a monitoring apparatus for a vehicle using a CCD camera or cameras arranged at sides of the vehicle. Yamamoto fails to disclose the pivoting carrier unit as claimed with cameras moveable within the bumper to a position outside of the bumper. In providing a teaching of permanently disposed side cameras, Yamamoto teaches away from the claimed combination. The prior art as a whole fails to suggest the combination as claimed.

As each of the claims as presented define a combination of features not suggested by the prior art, reconsideration of claim 1 as now presented is requested including claims depending thereon and favorable consideration of the new claims is requested.

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DATED: March 31, 2005
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